



MONDAY EVENING SPEAKERS & SPECIAL GUESTS



KEYNOTE SPEAKER: MICHAEL CHRISTIANO, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION, SMART MUSEUM OF ART, CHICAGO

Michael Christiano joined the Smart Museum in 2012. Christiano is responsible for overseeing the Smart's education programs for families, adults, university students, and K-12 students and teachers. He is also responsible for the development of a museum-wide interpretive plan—grounded in hospitality—to help audiences connect deeply with art and ideas. Christiano was previously curator of education at the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art in Winston-Salem, N.C. He has also held education positions at the Photographic Resource Center at Boston University and the Frist Center for the Visual Arts. He received an M.A. in museum education from the University of the Arts and a B.A. in art history with a museum studies minor from SUNY Oswego.



FILM PREMIERE: RODRIGO DORFMAN, AWARD-WINNING FILMMAKER AND PRODUCER

Rodrigo Dorfman is an award-winning filmmaker and multimedia producer who has worked with POV, HBO, Salma Hayek's Ventanazul and the BBC among others. He is currently producing all the documentary material for the first national museum exhibit on Latinos in the South for the Levine Museum of the New South in Charlotte. His company Melloweb, based in Durham, N.C., works in cooperation with NGOs, educational and grassroots organizations, artists and private institutions to create multimedia documentaries as a means to develop intercultural, social, scientific and political communication.



PERFORMANCE: SHANA TUCKER, SINGER, SONGWRITER AND CELLIST

Shana Tucker is a singer-songwriter and cellist who credits her genre-bending ChamberSoul™ journey to the influences of her jazz and classical roots, interwoven with 80s and 90s pop music, movie soundtracks and world music. Tucker's journey as a solo artist began in 2009 when she arrived in Durham, N.C., and quickly became a staple in the vibrant Triangle music scene.

A radio interview on APM's "The Story with Dick Gordon" led to an invitation to join the musical cast of KÅ by Cirque du Soleil in Las Vegas, where Tucker currently splits time when she is not on the road or home in her beloved North Carolina. In 2014, Tucker was awarded the prestigious Nevada Arts Council Artist Fellowship, as one of only three performing arts fellows in the state for her notable work on stage and within her Las Vegas community. She also serves as a teaching artist with The Smith Center for Performing Arts education program. A beneficiary of public school arts education, Tucker devotes a considerable amount of her time to working with students of all ages in public, private and charter schools, community centers and summer camps throughout the year as part of her mission to promote arts education programming for students of all ages.

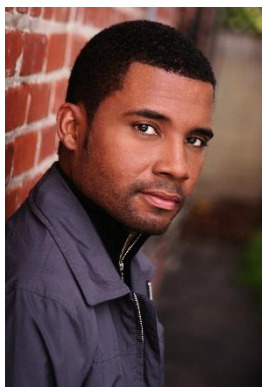


WELCOME REMARKS: SUSAN KLUTTZ, SECRETARY, N.C. DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL RESOURCES

Susan Kluttz, on January 5, 2013, took the oath of office becoming the eighth Secretary of the Department of Cultural Resources. She brought to the position keen interests in historic preservation and the arts, along with commitments to bolster economic development, expand job opportunities and further education. From 1997 until 2011, Secretary Kluttz was Mayor of Salisbury, N.C., after years of volunteer work in many areas, including serving as president of the Rowan Arts Council and board member of the Waterworks Visual Arts Center. She has also been personally involved in Salisbury's historic preservation and downtown revitalization for over 30 years.

A graduate of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Secretary Kluttz has served on her alma mater's board of visitors. She was a trustee of Rowan-Cabarrus Community College, was honored with an endowed scholarship in her name at Catawba College and was awarded an honorary doctorate from Livingstone College. Secretary Kluttz is married to former District Court Judge William C. Kluttz, Jr.

TUESDAY SPEAKERS & SPECIAL GUESTS



KEYNOTE SPEAKER: MIKE WILEY, ACTOR, PLAYWRIGHT AND PRODUCER

Acclaimed actor and playwright Mike Wiley has spent the last decade fulfilling his mission to bring educational theater to young audiences and communities across the country. In the early days of his career, Wiley found few theatrical resources to shine a light on key events and figures in African-American history. To bring these stories to life, he started his own production company. Through his performances, Wiley has introduced countless students and communities to the legacies of Emmett Till, Henry "Box" Brown and more. His most recent works include a one-man play based on Tim Tyson's memoir *Blood Done Sign My Name* and *The Parchman Hour*, an ensemble production celebrating the bravery and determination of the Freedom Riders who risked their lives to desegregate Southern interstate bus travel in 1961.

Wiley has a Master of Fine Arts from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and is the 2010 Lehman Brady Visiting Joint Chair Professor in Documentary Studies and American Studies at Duke University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In addition to his numerous school and community performances, he has also appeared on Discovery Channel, The Learning Channel and National Geographic Channel and has been featured in *Our State* magazine and on PBS's "North Carolina Now" and WUNC's "The State of Things."



REMARKS: JUNE ATKINSON, N.C. STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Dr. June St. Clair Atkinson is the first woman elected State Superintendent of the Public Schools of North Carolina and has served in this position since August 2005. As State Superintendent, Dr. Atkinson oversees almost 1.5 million students in over 2,500 public schools. She has more than 35 years of experience in education. During her career, she has served as a chief consultant and director in the areas of business education, career and technical education, and instructional services within the N.C. Department of Public Instruction. A former business education teacher, Dr. Atkinson has been involved in instruction and curriculum development throughout her career.

Dr. Atkinson has received numerous awards over the years and has held many professional offices, and in November 2014 she was named president of the Council of Chief State School Officers. Dr. Atkinson received a bachelor's degree in business education from Radford University, a master's degree in vocational and technical education from Virginia Tech, and a doctorate in educational leadership and policy from North Carolina State University.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER: JOHN MERROW, BROADCAST JOURNALIST AND EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT, PBS NEWSHOUR AND PRESIDENT, LEARNING MATTERS

John Merrow began his career as an education reporter with National Public Radio in 1974 with the weekly series "Options in Education," which won the prestigious George Polk Award in 1982. He is currently president of Learning Matters, a non-profit production company in New York City. In 2012 he became the first journalist to be honored with the prestigious McGraw Prize in Education, often referred to as "education's Nobel Prize."

Since 1984 he has worked in public television as education correspondent for PBS NewsHour and as host of his own series of documentaries. His work has been recognized with Peabody Awards in 2001 and 2006, Emmy nominations in 1984, 2005 and 2007, four CINE Golden Eagles and other reporting awards. An occasional contributor to the opinion pages of USA TODAY, The New York Times, Washington Post, Los Angeles Times and Education Week, he is the author of *The Influence of Teachers* (2011) and *Choosing Excellence* (2001) and co-editor of *Declining by Degrees* (2005). He blogs weekly at Taking Note (takingnote.learningmatters.tv).

Merrow, who began his education career as an English teacher, has taught in junior high, high school, college, graduate school and federal prison. Merrow earned an A.B. from Dartmouth College, an M.A. in American studies from Indiana University, and a doctorate in education and social policy from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. He has been awarded honorary doctorates from Richard Stockton State College and Paul Smith's College. He received the James L. Fisher Award for Distinguished Service to Education from CASE in 2000, the HGSE Alumni Council Award for Outstanding Contributions to Education in 2006, and the Horace Dutton Taft Alumni Medal in 2009. Merrow lives in New York City with his wife, Joan Loneragan, Head of The Hewitt School.

WEDNESDAY SPEAKERS & SPECIAL GUESTS



KEYNOTE SPEAKER: SANDRA RUPPERT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ARTS EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP

Sandra Ruppert is Director of the Arts Education Partnership (AEP), which is part of the Council of Chief State School Officers, a Washington D.C.-based non-profit and nonpartisan membership organization representing the top leaders of state education agencies. Ruppert leads AEP's national network of 100+ organizations dedicated to ensuring every young person in America receives a complete and competitive education that includes the arts. She is responsible for the design and development of AEP's *ArtsEdSearch.org*, the nation's first digital research and policy clearinghouse of educational outcomes associated with learning in and through the arts.

Ruppert is also the author of numerous AEP publications, including *A Snapshot of State Policies for Arts Education* (2014), *What School Leaders Can Do to Increase Arts Education* (2011) and *Critical Evidence: How the Arts Benefit Student Achievement* (2006). Prior to her appointment as AEP Director in June 2008, she was a program director with the Education Commission of the States, a

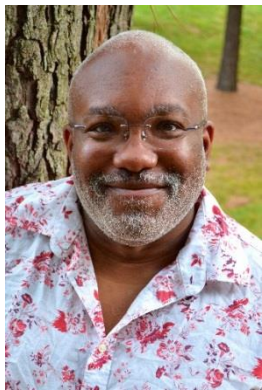
Denver-based national non-profit organization that advises state policymakers on education issues. While at ECS, she directed the Arts in Education Initiative of ECS Chairman, Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee. Ruppert holds a Master of Arts degree in anthropology from the University of Arizona.



LUNCHTIME PERFORMANCE: AUTHORIZING ACTION, WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.

Authoring Action was originally founded in 2002 as the Winston-Salem Youth Arts Institute. Today, the non-profit organization offers a variety of programs created to engage youth as well as to train and develop artists and staff working with youth. Programming is devoted to building youth as authors and advocates for social change, redefining learning through the arts, and supporting stronger communities.

As a literary and performance arts organization geared primarily for teens (ages 13 to 18), Authoring Action creates an opportunity for participation in the arts for youth who would not ordinarily have the opportunity to discover their voices through artistic development and/or who may lack one or more critical support systems. Through Authoring Action, these youth experience the power of the arts and writing as a transformational life process. The organization's signature creative writing and spoken word methods offer youth the tools to discover their unique voices, explore and reshape their lives, and become the positive change they want to see in the world.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER: COREY MITCHELL, TONY-AWARD WINNING THEATER ARTS EDUCATOR AT NORTHWEST SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

Reared in Statesville, N.C., and educated at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, Corey Mitchell is celebrating 20 years in the classroom and his fifteenth year at Northwest School of the Arts in Charlotte, N.C., where he teaches acting and leads a dynamic musical theater program. Some of Mitchell's most notable of the more than 70 productions include *For Colored Girls...*, *Pippin*, *Edges*, *Aida*, *Rent* and *Hair*, and he was selected as the North Carolina Outstanding Theater Arts Educator in 2007.

In addition to his work at Northwest, Mitchell is involved as a director and actor with the Charlotte-area theater community and is a strong advocate for arts education through his work on the board of directors for the North Carolina Theatre Conference. Additionally, Mitchell, his colleagues and his students are the subject of the 2015 feature-length documentary *Purple Dreams*, which chronicles the journey of Northwest's production of *The Color Purple* and its journey to the main stage of the International Thespian Festival. In June, Mitchell won the inaugural Excellence in Theatre Education Tony Award presented by the American Theatre Wing and Carnegie Mellon University.